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HOTEL SHOOTING, TOPS

LONDON (AP) -- ARAB TERRORISTS FIRING SUBMACHINE GUNS AND GRENADES SHOT UP AN ISRAELI EL AL AIRLINES BUS CARRYING CABIN CREW MEMBERS OUTSIDE A LONDON HOTEL SUNDAY, KILLING A STEWARDESS AND WOUNDING AT LEAST NINE OTHER PERSONS, SCOTLAND YARD REPORTED.

ONE OF THE TERRORISTS ALSO WAS KILLED WHEN A GRENADE EXPLODED IN HIS FACE, SCOTLAND YARD SAID. INVESTIGATORS DECLINED COMMENT ON EARLIER REPORTS THAT EL AL SECURITY MEN ON THE BUS FIRED AT THE ATTACKERS. POLICE AT THE SCENE SAID AS FAR AS THEY KNEW ALL THE GUNFIRE AND EXPLOSIVES CAME FROM THE TERRORISTS.

IN ISRAEL, MORDECHAI HOD, PRESIDENT OF EL AL, REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER EL AL SECURITY MEN BECAME INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING.

THREE DETECTIVES LEAPED FROM A SQUAD CAR AND ARRESTED A MAN RUNNING DOWN A STREET NEAR THE HOTEL. HE WAS HANDCUFFED AND DRAGGED AWAY SCREAMING. POLICE SAID THEY ARE HUNTING THREE OTHER MEN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK.

AN ISRAELI EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS THE FIRST ATTACK LAUNCHED AGAINST ISRAELIS ON THE STREETS OF LONDON.

IN JERUSALEM, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN CALLED THE ATTACK A ''BARBAROUS CRIME'' AND SAID THERE WERE NO OTHER WORDS TO DESCRIBE ''SUCH AN ATTACK AGAINST THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND MEN.''

WITNESSES, MANY OF THEM LONDONERS OUT FOR A SUNDAY STROLL ON A SUMMER AFTERNOON, SAID THEY SAW SEVERAL ARMED MEN ''ALL OF DARK, MIDDLE EAST APPEARANCE,'' RUNNING AROUND DURING THE TWO-MINUTE ATTACK.

SCOTLAND YARD DECLINED COMMENT ON THE IDENTITY OF THE TERRORISTS, BUT WITNESSES SAID: ''THERE WAS A LOT OF SHOUTING ABOUT THE PLO.''

THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IS THE UMBRELLA BODY CONTROLLING VARIOUS PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA FACTIONS WAGING A WAR AGAINST ISRAEL TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE HOLY LAND.

EL AL'S LONDON OFFICE SAID TWO OF THE WOUNDED WERE AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND THE OTHERS APPARENTLY WERE EITHER HOTEL GUESTS OR PASSERS-BY. THE AIRLINE SAID NO PASSENGERS WERE INVOLVED.

COMMANDER JIM NEVILL, HEAD OF SCOTLAND YARD'S CRACK ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD, SAID SIX OF THE WOUNDED WERE IN CRITICAL CONDITION IN MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL NEAR THE HOTEL.

NEVILL TOLD REPORTERS AT LEAST TWO TERRORISTS, POSSIBLY BACKED UP BY THREE MORE, LAUNCHED THE ATTACK ABOUT 1:30 P.M. (8:30 A.M. EDT). THEY STRUCK WHEN THE BUS CARRYING ABOUT 20 EL AL STEWARDS AND STEWARDESSES PULLED UP OUTSIDE THE LUXURY EUROPA HOTEL, NEAR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN GROSVENOR SQUARE. EL AL CREWS NORMALLY STAY AT THE EUROPA DURING LONDON STOPOVERS.

ALL THE AIRLINE PERSONNEL WERE FROM AN EL AL BOEING 747, FLIGHT 016 FROM NEW YORK TO TEL AVIV, WHICH CHANGED CREWS AT LONDON'S HEATHROW AIRPORT. AN EL AL SPOKESMAN IDENTIFIED THE DEAD STEWARDESS AS IRIT GIDRON, 29, OF KFAR GALLIM, AN AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT SOUTH OF HAIFA. HE SAID ISRAELI STEWARDESSES YEHUDIT ARNON, 23, OF HOLON, AND MIHAL UNGER, 22, OF JERUSALEM, WERE WOUNDED.

THE TERRORISTS OPENED UP WITH LONG BURSTS OF FIRE AT THE BUS AND LOBBED AT LEAST THREE GRENADES. DAVID FIELDS, THE DOORMAN AT AN APARTMENT BLOCK ACROSS THE STREET, SAID THE STEWARDESS WHO WAS KILLED WAS CUT DOWN NEAR THE BUS AND FELL ''WITH THE BACK OF HER HEAD BLOWN OFF.''

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D M MURRAY, MANAGER OF THE NEARBY RUNNING HORSE PUB, SAID ONE OF THE TERRORISTS, ''A CHAP IN GREEN SHIRT, BROWN TROUSERS AND WITH FUZZY HAIR,'' STOOD COOLLY PULLING GRENADES FROM A HAVERSACK AND LOBBING THEM AT THE BUS.

''HE WAS JUST TAKING THE STUFF OUT OF THE BAG AND THROWING IT,'' MURRAY SAID. ''GOD, BUT HE WAS COOL. HE EVEN DID UP HIS HAVERSACK BEFORE HE NONCHALANTLY WALKED OFF. HE DIDN'T EVEN RUN.''

POLICE PATROL CARS, ON ALERT IN RECENT WEEKS AFTER A SPATE OF FIGHTING BETWEEN RIVAL PALESTINIAN FACTIONS IN EUROPEAN CITIES, WERE QUICKLY ON THE SCENE.

HOTEL CHEF ALAN FYKIN, 2Ø, TOLD REPORTERS: ''AFTER THE SHOOTING, SEVERAL MEN RAN INTO THE KITCHEN AND TRIED TO GET CHEF'S UNIFORMS TO PUT ON. FOR SOME REASON THEY DIDN'T AND THEY RAN OUT AGAIN.''

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL THERE WAS CARNAGE. A LONDON TAXI DRIVER WHO HAD DRAWN UP OUTSIDE THE HOTEL LOOKING FOR A FARE WAS WOUNDED IN THE CROSS-FIRE AND HIS CAB SHOT UP.

WITNESSES REPORTED SEVERAL BODIES WERE SLUMPED AROUND THE BULLET-RIDDLED BUS, ITS DRIVER'S CAB SHATTERED BY GUNFIRE AND SHRAPNEL. BUILDINGS ACROSS THE STREET WERE PEPPERED WITH BULLET HOLES.

JULIAN HARRIS, A 23-YEAR-OLD LONDONER WHO LIVES IN AN APARTMENT BESIDE THE HOTEL, TOLD REPORTERS HE SAW A MAN LYING ON THE GROUND NEAR A TAXI OUTSIDE THE HOTEL WITH A GUN BESIDE HIM. ''HE WAS LYING VERY STILL,'' HARRIS SAID. ''A WOMAN WITH A LOT OF BLOOD ABOUT HER LEGS WAS LYING NEAR THE BUS AND THERE WAS ANOTHER WMES EVERYWHERE, BUT I COULDN'T SEE HOW BADLY THEY HAD BEEN HIT.''

SUNDAY'S BLOODY ATTACK IN THE HEART OF LONDON FOLLOWED A STRING OF BOMB ATTACKS BY PALESTINIAN TERROR SQUADS IN ISRAEL.

EL AL LONG HAS BEEN A PRIME PALESTINIAN TERRORIST TARGET. THE LAST MAJOR ATTACK ON THE AIRLINE WAS AT PARIS' ORLY AIRPORT MAY 2Ø, WHEN EL AL GUARDS AND FRENCH POLICE OFFICERS FOUGHT A GUN BATTLE WITH TERRORISTS ATTACKING PASSENGERS WAITING TO BOARD AN EL AL FLIGHT. TWO POLICEMEN AND THREE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED IN T IN LONDON BLAMED ON FEUDING ARAB FACTIONS. THAT VIOLENCE, OVER THE PAST 15 MONTHS, IS PART OF A WORLDWIDE FIGHT BETWEEN AL FATAH, THE MAIN GUERRILLA GROUP WITHIN THE PLO, AND A MILITANT, PRO-IRAQI SPLINTER FACTION THAT IS FIERCELY OPPOSED TO ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. THE FEUD HAS TRIGGERED ATTACKS IN LONDON, PARIS, KARACHI, ISLAMABAD AND BEIRUT IN RECENT MONTHS IN WHICH SCORES OF PERSONS WERE KILLED OR INJURED.

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